



**FORT WORTH PRODUCES  
CLASS "A" EXCEPTIONAL  
QUALITY BIOSOLIDS, THE  
HIGHEST CLASSIFICATION  
RECOGNIZED BY EPA**



- ◆ Due to the high demand there is a 60 day waiting list for biosolids application
- ◆ Currently, land application occurs in Tarrant County and 6 surrounding counties
- ◆ Noticed sites must be at least 200 acres and easily accessible
- ◆ The current fee for land application is \$20 per acre
- ◆ Approximately 32,000 dry tons of biosolids are land applied annually.

**For more information:**

**City of Fort Worth-Water Department  
Pollution Control Division**

<http://www.fortworthgov.org/water/>

817.392.4965-Steve Nutter

817.392.4979-Magan Lersch

**Renda Environmental, Inc.**

<http://www.rendaenvironmental.com>

817.571.9391- Ben Davis



**National Biosolids Partnership**

<http://www.wef.org/biosolids/>



**Environmental Protection Agency  
Biosolids Program**

[http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/wastewater/  
treatment/biosolids/index.cfm](http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/wastewater/treatment/biosolids/index.cfm)

**Comments or complaints?  
Please call the City of Fort Worth at the  
numbers listed above.**

**Are you a landowner that would like to  
have biosolids applied on your property?  
If so, then please contact Renda Environmental, Inc. at the phone number  
listed above.**



**Biosolids Beneficial Reuse  
& Recycling Program**



# City of Fort Worth Biosolids Program

Our goal is to land apply  
100% of all biosolids.

## What are Biosolids?

Biosolids are the nutrient rich material created from the processing of wastewater. In Fort Worth, the biosolids are applied to local agricultural land. Biosolids act as a great fertilizer and as a soil stabilizer.

## Do biosolids have to be tested?

Yes. Fort Worth's biosolids are routinely monitored for hazardous compounds and pathogens. Heavy metal testing including: arsenic, cadmium, chromium, copper, lead, mercury, molybdenum, nickel, selenium, and zinc is conducted monthly along with testing for PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls). Fecal coliform and other pathogens are sampled twice per month. The pH of the biosolids is taken at least once a week. Additional sampling, beyond what's listed above, may be conducted if needed.



## Are biosolids safe?

Yes! Numerous studies have shown that biosolids are safe for application on food crops.

## Are biosolids regulated?

The federal regulation, which is established by EPA, can be found in 40 CFR Part 503. This regulation sets metal concentration limits, pathogen and vector attraction reduction standards, record keeping and reporting requirements.

## Do biosolids smell?

Ideally biosolids will smell a little musty or have an "earthy" smell. Sometimes, the material will have an odor of ammonia or hydrogen sulfide (rotten eggs). This smell usually dissipates fairly quickly, especially if the biosolids are worked into the soil.

## Where are biosolids applied?

Landowners that want to use biosolids must have their land "noticed" by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). Once the notice is sent to the TCEQ the land is considered approved for biosolids land application.

## How are biosolids created?

When you brush your teeth or take a shower, the water goes down the drain and into sanitary sewer pipes under the street. In Fort Worth, these pipes take the water to the Village Creek Water Reclamation Facility. The water is separated from the solid material (sludge) through clarification, aeration and filtration. The solids are then anaerobically (without oxygen) digested by bacteria for approximately 28 days. During this time the sludge is thickened to the consistency of milk. The sludge is then pumped to the Biosolids facility, about a mile north of Village Creek. This facility is operated by Renda Environmental as a public/private partnership with the City of Fort Worth. At the Biosolids facility, water is removed from the sludge via belt presses, after which it resembles potting soil. A pH adjustment is performed to reduce the odor and kill harmful pathogens (E. coli, Salmonella, etc.) that may still be present. The biosolids are stored on-site for one day, after which they are ready for land application.



THE CITY OF FORT WORTH IS THE FIRST AGENCY IN TEXAS TO HAVE AN NBP  
CERTIFIED BIOSOLIDS EMS (ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM) AND THE  
7<sup>TH</sup> IN THE US.

